



**An Invitation to Contribute Water Quality Monitoring Data
for the
Characterization of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Surface
Waters
Data Submissions due April 15th 2005**

Every two years, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) carries out an integrated assessment of water quality conditions [biennial 305(b) Report] and a listing of impaired waters [associated 303(d) Report] in the Commonwealth. This report is required by the federal Clean Water Act.

As part of this process, DEQ requests water quality data collected by citizen's (volunteer) monitoring groups, universities, local governments, utility companies, businesses, in addition to other state and federal agencies. The data submitted to DEQ will be helpful in the preparation of this report. In addition, the submitted data will help DEQ identify localized water quality problems.

DEQ invites anyone to submit data for review and consideration. This is the second and final request for data submission by DEQ for inclusion in the 2006 water quality assessment report.

Requirements: In order for data to be accepted by DEQ for the assessment, the following requirements must be met:

1. DEQ approved Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
2. Data must be representative of the water body of interest; it should consist of multiple, independent observations characterizing seasonal variations in water quality.
3. Water Quality Data was collected between January 1st 2000 to December 31st 2004.
4. Data must be submitted to DEQ no later than April 15th, 2005.

The water quality data of interest to DEQ can be found in Virginia's Water Quality Standards (9 VAC 25-260-140 *et seq.*, under Statutory Authority of § 62.1-44.15(3a) of the Code of Virginia). The current edition of the standards is available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqs/>.

As a quick reference, the most common water quality measurements desired by DEQ for inclusion in the report include the following parameters:

- water temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- pH
- Bacteria levels (*E. coli*, *Enterococci* or fecal coliform bacteria)

Data regarding nutrients (ammonia, total nitrogen and/or total phosphorus), chlorophyll, benthic invertebrate communities, and any other parameters not covered in 9 VAC 25-260-140 may also be useful to DEQ for evaluating water quality.

Information about QA/QC requirements and guidance on preparing a QAPP for citizen monitoring groups, can also be found in the 2003 edition of the *Virginia Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program Methods Manual*. This manual can be downloaded for future reference at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/cmonitor/guidance.html>. Information can also be found at the EPA website <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qapps.html>.

If a monitoring group is interested in submitting data to DEQ , please contact:

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